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ABSTRACT

The Library Statistics Cooperative Program collects statistics about all types of libraries--academic libraries, public libraries, school library media centers, state library agencies, federal libraries and information centers, and library cooperatives. The Library Statistics Cooperative Program depends on collaboration with all types of libraries and all levels of governments. Organizations with a key role in its success include: the National Center for Education Statistics, the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the Bureau of the Census, in addition to cooperating partners and organizations. This pamphlet briefly describes the surveys conducted by the Library Statistics Cooperative Program: Academic Libraries Survey; Public Libraries Survey; School Library Media Centers Survey; State Library Agencies Survey; Federal Libraries and Information Centers Survey; and Library Cooperatives Survey. Tables list the following general information for each survey: frequency of data collection; year survey began; number of school library media centers reporting; type of data collected; how collected; reports; availability of a data file; and NCES staff contact information. The pamphlet also describes numerous ways to access the NCES library data. (SWC)

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Library Statistics Cooperative Program

Data * Federal Library Data * *Library Cooperative Data* * Public Library Data * *School Library Media Center Data* * State Library Agency Data * *Academic Library Data* * Federal Library Data * *Library Cooperative Data* * Public Library Data * *School Library Media Center Data* * State Library Agency Data * *Academic Library Data* * Federal Library Data * *Library Cooperative Data* * Public Library Data * *School Library Media Center Data* * State Library Agency Data * *Academic Library Data* * Federal Library Data

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Answering Your Questions

The Library Statistics Cooperative Program collects statistics about all types of libraries. These statistics are available to answer your questions. For example:

Academic Libraries

- How many volumes are in the collections of academic libraries?
- How many items per year do academic libraries circulate?

Public Libraries

- What are the total annual operating incomes of public libraries?
- How many branches, bookmobiles, and other public library service outlets are operated by public libraries?
- How many books and other items do public libraries circulate in a year?
- What is the nationwide attendance at children's programs?
- How many people visit public libraries annually?

School Library Media Centers

- How many school library media specialists are on elementary and secondary school staffs?
- How do expenditures for school library media center services relate to total school expenditures?

State Library Agencies

- Under what branches of state government do state library agencies operate?
- What services do state library agencies provide?

Federal Libraries and Information Centers

- What are typical services of federal libraries and information centers?
- To what degree do they serve the general public?
- What types of electronic services are provided?

Library Cooperatives

- What types of libraries, and how many of each type, are members of library cooperatives?
- What are the principal types of services provided?

Library Statistics Cooperative Program

The Library Statistics Cooperative Program depends on collaboration with all types of libraries and all levels of government. The following organizations have a key role in its success.

NCES Role: The mandate of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to collect library statistics is included in the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-382). The Library Statistics Cooperative Program is administered and funded by the NCES, which regularly collects and disseminates statistical information on libraries under six surveys. These surveys include the Public Libraries Survey, the Academic Libraries Survey, the School Library Media Centers Survey, the State Library Agencies Survey, the Federal Libraries Survey, and the Library Cooperatives Survey. The National Center for Education Statistics also sponsors data analysis projects, meetings, training workshops, training and technical assistance grants, and an annual policy forum and a newsletter. Library data and analyses are used by federal, state, and local officials, professional associations, and local practitioners, and researchers for policy, planning, evaluation, research, and drawing samples for special surveys.

NCLIS Role: The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) works cooperatively with NCES in implementing the Library Statistics Cooperative Program. The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science serves as a liaison to the library community, organizes meetings and training workshops, organizes training and technical assistance, monitors trends, and advises NCES on policy matters.

Bureau of the Census Role: The Bureau of the Census works cooperatively with NCES in implementing the Library Statistics Cooperative Program. The Bureau of the Census plays a key role in data collection, processing, and dissemination activities.

Partners in Cooperation:

- Coordinators, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
- Federal librarians
- Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) Data Use Task Force
- FSCS State Data Coordinators
- FSCS Steering Committee
- Library Cooperatives Survey data providers
- Library Representatives, Academic Libraries Survey
- Local public, school, and academic library data providers

Other Cooperating Organizations: The following organizations perform a variety of activities that contribute to the development of the Library Statistics Cooperative Program:

- American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
- American Library Association (ALA)
  - Advisory Committee on Academic Library Statistics
  - Office of Research and Statistics
- Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
- Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)
- Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)

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- Institute of Museum and Library Services
  Office of Library Programs (OLP)
- Library of Congress (LC)
  Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC)
- National Education Data Resource Center (NEDRC)
- Public Library Association (PLA)
- State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAA)
- U.S. Department of Education
  Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
  The National Institute on Postsecondary Education, Libraries, and Lifelong Learning (PLLI)

About the Surveys:

Academic Libraries Survey

Frequency of data collection:	Biennial
Year survey began:	1988
Number of academic libraries reporting:	About 3,500
Type of data collected:	Total operating expenditures; full-time equivalent library staff; service outlets; total volumes held at the end of the fiscal year; circulation; interlibrary loans; public service hours; gate count; reference transactions per typical week; and on-line services. Beginning in 1996 the libraries were asked whether they offered the following electronic services: an electronic catalog that includes the library's holdings; electronic full-text periodicals; Internet access; library reference services by e-mail; electronic document delivery to patron's account-address?
How collected:	The Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) is a component of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The Academic Libraries Survey has established a steering committee composed of representatives of the academic library community. A network of academic library professionals works closely with state IPEDS coordinators (representatives from each state who work with NCES to coordinate the collection of IPEDS data from academic libraries in postsecondary institutions in each of their states).
Reports:	• E.D. TABS (biennial) • The Status of Academic Libraries in the U.S.: 1990 and 1992
File available?	Yes, survey-universe file
NCES staff:	Jeffrey Williams: 202-219-1362; jeffrey_williams@ed.gov

Public Libraries Survey

Frequency of data collection:	Annual
Year survey began:	1988
Number of public libraries reporting:	Nearly 9,000 nationwide
Type of data collected - public libraries:	Identifying information; staffing; number of service outlets; operating income and expenditures; size of collection; administrative structure; and service measures, such as library visits, reference transactions, interlibrary loans, circulation, public service hours per year, circulation of children's materials, and children's program attendance; interlibrary relationship; legal basis; population of legal service area; Internet Access; is Internet used by staff and/or patrons; access to electronic services; number of and expenditures for electronic library materials; operating expenditures for electronic access.
Type of data collected - public library service outlets:	Identifying information; location of outlet relative to a metropolitan area.
How collected:	Electronically via the Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS) for Public Library Data. The Federal-State Cooperative System is administered by NCES in cooperation with NCLIS. At the state level and in the outlying areas, FSCS is administered by data coordinators, appointed by each state or outlying area's chief officer of the state library agency. The Federal-State Cooperative System is a working network. For example, some data collection is being done via the Internet. The National Center for Education Statistics has also implemented an early release policy for public library data. Data provided by states are provided over the Internet as received at NCES. This is preliminary data and subject to revision until replaced by a final fully edited data file. An annual training conference is provided for the state data coordinators and a steering committee that represents them and other interested organizations is active in the development of the Public Libraries Survey and its software.
Reports:	• E.D. TABS (annual) • Geographic mapping of public libraries (1998) • Public library inflation index (Fall 1997)
File available?	Yes, survey-universe file
NCES staff:	Adrienne Chute: 202-219-1772; adrienne_chute@ed.gov Elaine Kroe: 202-219-1361; pkroe@inet.ed.gov

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School Library Media Centers Survey

Frequency of data collection:	Every five years.
Year survey began:	1991
Number of school library media centers reporting:	A sample of 5,000 public schools and 2,500 private schools.
Type of data collected:	Expenditures; staffing; collection; and descriptive data on the school library specialists.
How collected:	In school year 1993–94, NCES, with the assistance of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, conducted this survey as part of the 1994 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS).
Reports:	• School Library Media Centers: 1993–94 (Summer 1997)
File available?	Yes, survey file on a sample (summer 1997)
NCES staff:	Jeffrey Williams: 202–219–1362; jeffrey_williams@ed.gov

State Library Agencies Survey

Frequency of data collection:	Annual
Year survey began:	1994
Number of state library agencies reporting:	50 states and the District of Columbia
Type of data collected:	Direct library services; library development services; resources assigned to allied operations such as archive and records management; organizational and governance structure within which the agency operates; electronic networking; staffing; collections; and expenditures.
How collected:	Electronically from each of the state library agencies. These are the units of state government designated by law as the state agency responsible for statewide library development and administering federal funds under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).
Reports:	• E.D. TABS (annual)
File available?	Yes, survey-universe file
NCES staff	Elaine Kroe: 202–219–1361; pkroe@inet.ed.gov

Federal Libraries and Information Centers Survey

Frequency of data collection:	Every five years.
Year survey began:	1994
Number of federal libraries and information centers reporting:	1,234 nationwide; elementary and secondary school libraries under federal agency operation are excluded.
Type of data collected:	Staffing; collections; services for typical week; automation; technology; and preservation for 50 states and DC.
How collected:	Cooperative effort with the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) of the Library of Congress. Data are collected by mail by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, acting as agent for NCES.
Reports:	• E.D. TABS (every 5 years) • Issues on the Health of Federal Libraries (June 1997) • Directory (every 5 years)
File available?	Yes, survey-universe file
NCES staff:	Martha Hollins: 202–219–1462; martha_hollins@ed.gov

Library Cooperatives Survey

Frequency of data collection:	Every five years.
Year survey began:	To begin in 1997
Number of library cooperatives reporting:	Approximately 1,000 nationwide
Type of data collected:	Cooperative membership; collections; finances; staffing; library support; and electronic services and activities.
How collected:	This survey is in the review and testing stage and is expected to be fielded in paper and electronic formats in 1997 by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, acting as agent for NCES. It is to include library organizations having formal arrangements, budgets, and paid staff to provide library and information services for the mutual benefit of participating libraries.
Reports:	• E.D. TABS (every 5 years, beginning in 1998)
File available?	Survey file and universe file in development
NCES staff:	Rosa Fernandez: 202–219–1358; rosa_fernandez@ed.gov

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How to Access the Data

Under its six library surveys, NCES regularly publishes E.D. TABS which consist of tables, usually presenting state and national totals, a survey description, and data highlights. The National Center for Education Statistics also publishes separate, more in-depth studies analyzing these data. Many of these publications are available in printed format and over the Internet. Edited raw data from the library surveys are made available on data diskettes, CD-ROM, and also over the Internet.

To reach NCES library products on the U.S. Department of Education, NCES World Wide Web site, type the URL address: http://www.ed.gov/NCES. Then select "Data and Surveys", then "Libraries", then choose from a list of options.

To reach NCES products on the U.S. Department of Education, OERI Gopher Server (gopher.ed.gov), select from the root directory: "#7. (OERI & NCES)", then "#3. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)", then "#5. NCES Data (surveys & raw data)", then "#4. Library Programs Data", then choose from a list of options.

To Obtain Reports, Data Files, Special Tabulations, and Help with Internet:

For help obtaining NCES reports and data files through Internet, Government Printing Office (GPO) or the National Education Data Resource Center (NEDRC), or for special tabulations, contact the NEDRC, 1900 N. Beauregard St., Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22311–1722, telephone: (703) 845–3151, fax: (703) 820–7465; or e-mail: <nedrc@inet.ed.gov>.

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